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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LAS VEGAS TRUCKER GETS 71 MONTH**  
**FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCE FOR TRAVELING INTERSTATE**  
**TO OBTAIN SEX WITH A MINOR GIRL IN SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that RAYMOND BENJAMIN PEDROZA, 51 of Las Vegas, Nevada was sentenced today by Chief United States District Court Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. for attempting to engage in sex acts with a minor female by traveling in interstate commerce.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. The prosecution of PEDROZA was part of "Operation Valley Predator," a multi-agency operation spearheaded by the Sacramento Office of the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice, designed to increase federal and state prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies throughout the Eastern District to enhance law enforcement presence on the Internet, and to educate the public and children of safe Internet use. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to [www.projectsafatchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafatchildhood.gov), or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, PEDROZA traveled via state and interstate highways from Las Vegas, Nevada to South Lake Tahoe, California for the purpose of meeting with whom he believed to be a 13 year old female for purposes of illicit sexual activity. For his intended sexual encounter, PEDROZA rented a motel room and purchased condoms and candy. PEDROZA also brought a laptop computer, digital camera, and Viagra with him from Las Vegas. PEDROZA planned to provide the minor a prepaid cellular phone so that, after the sexual encounter, the minor and he could have future telephonic contacts. PEDROZA was an ice cream delivery truck driver in Las Vegas.

PEDROZA was sentenced to 71 months in federal custody and ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment. His computer and digital camera equipment were forfeited. PEDROZA will be on federal supervision for 10 years following his 71 month term of incarceration. PEDROZA will be required to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.

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